

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FP20980	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/AU2005/000034	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14 January 2005	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 January 2004
Applicant COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION et al		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box No. III).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 10

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000034

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl. ⁷ : G06K 9/62 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI, USPTO, INTERNET (KEYWORDS): MASK+, CONCEAL+, HIDE? OR HIDDEN, STEGANOGRAPH+, HISTOGRAM, CONTRAST+, TONE? OR TONAL+, TONAGRAM?, HUE?, GREY SCALE, COLO?R SCALE, SECUR+, VISIBLE IMAGE?, LATENT IMAGE?, WATERMARK+ OR WATER MARK+		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/136429 A1 (STACH et al) 26 September 2002 See whole document.	
A	US 2004/001611 A1 (CELIK et al) 1 January 2004 See whole document.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 9 March 2005		Date of mailing of the international search report 16 MAR 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer Stephen Lee Telephone No : (02) 6283 2205

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000034

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
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		EP	0961239	EP	0981113
		EP	1003324	EP	1008097
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		EP	1142190	EP	1157499
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US	5850481	US	5862260	US	6026193
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US	6411725	US	6421070	US	6424725
US	6427020	US	6430302	US	6438231
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Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX